



# THE BERKELEY BUTTRESS

## AUTUMN 2024

FRIENDS OF BERKELEY CASTLE NEWSLETTER

Dear fellow Friends, Earlier this year I received a letter (printed below) from Charles Wyld, Chairman of the Trustees of Berkeley Castle Charitable Trust, thanking us all for our continued support of the Castle. David Bowd-Exworth (FoBC Chairman).

Dear David,

I chaired a recent meeting of the Trustees of Berkeley Castle Charitable Trust where we were able to hear from Josh and Michelle about the great work which the Friends of Berkeley Castle have been continuing to do to support the Charity.

My fellow Trustees and I were keen to express our thanks to the Friends for your hard work and support towards the upkeep of the Chattels in the Castle. It is noted and appreciated by us Trustees and the Family. We were pleased to hear how well the recent events have gone; this is great news and all helps the cause!

Josh showed us the lighting in the Kings Gallery which really did highlight the paintings and lift that particular area and I know the recent repair to the Gilded Card Tables was something we have been keen to undertake for some time now, so it is wonderful that you were able to support that.

I also want to thank you for revisiting the Friends pricing for this season to better align with the Visitor pricing. I know how much work goes into navigating this type of review so was very pleased to hear the outcome you arrived at.

Although there is always much to do, real progress has been made at Berkeley Castle in recent years and I would like to thank you, your committee, and your members for the part that the Friends have played in that. Please pass on my thanks.

Yours sincerely,

Charles Wyld, Chairman of the Trustees. 4th April 2024.



A View of Berkeley Castle, probably taken from Stinchcombe Hill, which hangs in the Picture Gallery at the Castle.

(See the article on page 9 ff.)

# Pod, My Riding Career, a talk by Daisy Berkeley

*Report by Diana Merrett*

After their A.G.M. on 18th April, the Friends enjoyed the company of Daisy Berkeley, when she talked to us about her career in riding, especially with her much loved horse, Spring Along – Pod for short. Daisy's parents were both keen riders, her father, David, being a National Hunt Jockey who once won the Grand National, and her mother representing Ireland in Eventing. So, from an early age Daisy wanted to follow in their footsteps. She would have liked to have been a jockey and be the first woman to win the Grand National, but was firmly dissuaded from doing so, so chose Eventing instead.

It was in this discipline that she found great camaraderie amongst her fellow riders. Daisy thought she would be interested in Biology, even Marine Biology, but the pull of ponies and horses was too strong. She came on through the ranks of junior and young riders, entering various competitions, her first Badminton Trials being in 1994.

In 1998 she met Pod, a sprightly, fast moving little horse, who was to take her on to all National and International events. Their first appearance together was at Little Gatcombe and their journeys with each other took them several times to Badminton, Burghley and Blenheim. They were selected for European and World Games and Pod proved his bravery time and time again: medals began accruing and medals mean funding for the sport and support for young riders.

Daisy was thrilled when she and Pod, along with William Fox-Pitt, Tina Cook, Sharon Hunt and Mary King were selected for the 2008 Olympic Games to be held in Beijing, and it was whilst in London during preparations for that event that she met Charles. Daisy and Pod were the first to ride and secured a good time, with Pod excelling himself and the United Kingdom team going on to win a coveted Bronze Medal, which Daisy brought along for us to see. The following year, competing at Badminton, Charles proved to be quite a distraction at the lake, but Pod carried Daisy safely through!

Daisy and Charles were married in 2009 and in 2010, her best ever year with Pod, she competed for the first time as a Gloucestershire rider. Mary arrived in 2011 and, like Daisy, is a keen rider and is following in her mother's footsteps.

Spring Along and Daisy were a perfect partnership and a winning combination who travelled together to many British and overseas events and, in a roundabout way, led them to Charles and Berkeley. Horse and rider well deserve their place in equestrian history and the Friends thoroughly enjoyed listening to Daisy and her time with Pod.



*Daisy Berkeley speaking to the Friends last April.*



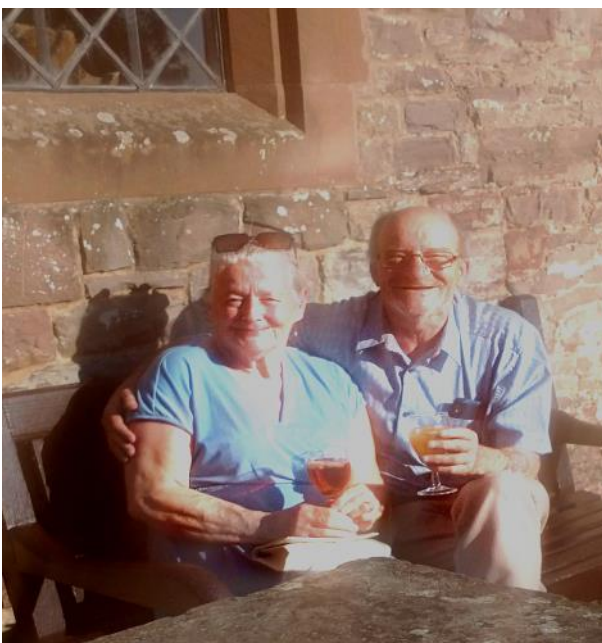
# The Friends of Berkeley Castle Summer Party

## *Report by Eleanor Garratt-Taylor*

We held the summer party earlier this year, the weather was kind and we were able to enjoy the fabulous evening sunshine, we were quite a big party. It might not have gone so well if the Friends hadn't known about the private gate; it seems the car park gate had been padlocked by the last person leaving work and we hadn't checked. Happily, everyone knew what they were doing and came around to the High Street to find access.

We enjoyed the sunshine and chatted for a bit before I took those who were keen down to the great lawn to look at the maturing Memorial Garden: the Friends had contributed to some of the planting and it's beginning to look glorious. We moved up to the Lily Pond, where we talked about its history and some of the stories we've told the Garden Tours visitors, then back up to the food and fill up.

Doesn't time fly when you're enjoying yourself? Suddenly everyone seemed to have gone and we were left in the fading warmth of the evening, packing up and smiling about another happy event.





# Quiz Night

In September, we held a very successful Quiz Night. Unlike the Summer Party, this was held in the Long Drawing Room, where we were able to light the fire on what was a chilly evening. Chilly thoughts were soon dispelled when the quiz got under way. A couple of the rounds tested our knowledge of history, with some wild guesses to fill in the gaps and some surprising mistakes by those one would have expected to have got the right answers. Your Chairman scored *nil points* in the Sports round, but got all the answers correct in the picture round, and the team he joined was the winning team (no, fellow competitors, it wasn't a fix!). Another team scored full marks in the Berkeley Castle round, so honour was satisfied across the board. Jane Handoll and the Committee provided a tasty Ploughman's Supper part-way through the evening and Jeanette Palmer, who devised the quiz, looked on with interest — and probably with incredulity — at some of the less accurate answers. Thank you Jeanette!



# AUTUMN EVENTS

## *An Events Order Form is included with this e-mail*

### **Thursday 10th October: Talk by Tobias Birch, Thomas Tompion and his Clocks.**

Tobias Birch has skilfully looked after the two longcase clocks at Berkeley Castle for very many years. As many of you may remember, the Friends decided very soon after our foundation in 2006 to support the maintenance and repair of both clocks. We have spent funds raised by the members on both, and are particularly proud of the Thomas Tompion clock in the Billiard Room. Tobias will tell us more about Thomas Tompion, his career and his output of internationally renowned clocks.

7.30pm in the Great Hall, Berkeley Castle.

£10 (£15). Cash Bar from 7pm.

### **Sunday 24th November: Talk by Philip Ashford, To Virginia from Gloucestershire:**

#### **What motivated this early C17 adventure and who went from our locality?**

Philip's talk will be about the background to why the New World was discovered and explored and why it was settled by the English in the C17. He will explain the motivations for the gentry and workers from Gloucestershire (particularly looking at those from the Wotton-Under-Edge, North Nibley and Berkeley area) who sailed across the Atlantic to Virginia. Philip will then examine what happened to the Berkeley Plantation settlers and the reasons why the plantation eventually failed.

3pm in the Great Hall, Berkeley Castle.

£15 (20), including a delicious Afternoon Tea by Berkeley W.I..

Deadline (for catering purposes): Wednesday 6th November.

### **Sunday 8th December: Drinks Party.**

A social evening around the Castle's traditional Christmas Tree, with mulled wine and mince pies.

This will be one of the Friends' popular pre-Christmas parties, with mulled wine and mince pies in the Great Hall, with the Castle's decorated Christmas Tree in the window and the fire lit in the hearth to give a welcome winter glow to our final event of 2024.

6pm - 8pm in the Great Hall, Berkeley Castle.

£10 (£15).

Deadline (for catering purposes): Wednesday 27th November.

Copies of the booking form are available in the Castle Ticket Office  
and may also be downloaded from the FoBC web page:

[www.berkeley-castle.com/friends-whats-on](http://www.berkeley-castle.com/friends-whats-on)



# The Berkeleys and the Gloucestershire Yeomanry

*by Philip Legg*

The Berkeley family took a particular interest in local part-time military forces, including the yeomanry. This was partly because of their role as Lords Lieutenant of Gloucestershire which they held on a number of occasions. The 5th Earl of Berkeley, for example, Frederick Augustus (1745-1810), was Lord Lieutenant from 1766 to 1810. He helped to keep the Gloucestershire yeomanry cavalry going through a period of peace in 1802 when government support waned, and to re-establish yeomanry troops in 1803, for which he received a letter of thanks from the Speaker of the House of Commons. In 1810 the Prince of Wales and his brother, the Duke of Sussex, stayed at Berkeley Castle and visited Gloucester with a yeomanry escort, returning via Bristol similarly accompanied.

William FitzHardinge Berkeley (1786-1857) was the eldest son of the 5<sup>th</sup> Earl of Berkeley and Mary Cole. As such he was eventually styled Viscount Dursley, the title given to heirs to the Berkeley earldom, but he was denied the right to the earldom due to his illegitimacy. In 1810, he became Colonel of the Royal South Gloucestershire Militia. In 1831, he was created Baron Segrave and in 1841, he was granted the further title of Earl FitzHardinge.

He was Lord Lieutenant of Gloucestershire from 1835 until his death in 1857. In his first year he invited members of the Gloucestershire Yeomanry Cavalry (which had formed into a single regiment in 1834) to dinner at Berkeley Castle. He did the same again in 1837.

In 1840, while still Lord Segrave, he raised a new squadron for the regiment from among his tenants at Berkeley which was put under the command of his younger brother, Captain George Charles Grantley Fitzhardinge Berkeley (1800-1881), who had previously been commissioned in the Coldstream Guards and the 82<sup>nd</sup> Regiment of Foot. The Gloucestershire Yeomanry Cavalry was granted the 'Royal' prefix in 1841 and was styled 'Hussars' from 1847 with the title Royal Gloucestershire Hussars. Social standing was very important in the yeomanry which recruited mainly from landholders and tenant farmers, and which was officered by nobility and gentry. This became evident when a bitter quarrel developed between the Earl and his brother Grantley in 1847. The Earl has been called "a thorough-paced cad" and "a rotter". He tried unsuccessfully to get Grantley replaced as the officer commanding the Berkeley Squadron. He also instructed



**5th Earl of Berkeley 1745—1810**



**William, Earl Fitzhardinge  
1786—1857**

any of his tenants who were in that squadron to resign immediately and encouraged political opposition to Grantley as MP for West Gloucestershire. There was widespread condemnation of FitzHardinge's actions and much sympathy for Grantley, although widely regarded as an unpleasant man himself, with one tenant referring to Fitzhardinge as "a snake in the grass". Grantley eventually resigned from the Royal Gloucestershire Hussars in protest and the Berkeley Squadron lost a lot of its members.

At the top of the staircase leading down to the Billiard Room in Berkeley Castle is an impressive portrait of Francis William FitzHardinge Berkeley, 2<sup>nd</sup> Baron Fitzhardinge (1826-1896), in military uniform. This is the full-dress uniform of the Royal Gloucestershire Hussars Yeomanry Cavalry, of which he was commanding officer from 1884. This painting was presented to Lady Fitzhardinge on the baron's retirement in 1887.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Baron Fitzhardinge was the eldest son of Admiral Maurice Berkeley, 1<sup>st</sup> Baron FitzHardinge, and the nephew of the 1<sup>st</sup> Earl FitzHardinge. He had served as a captain in the Royal Horse Guards and later became Honorary Colonel and then Lieutenant-Colonel Commandant of the Royal South Gloucestershire Light Infantry Militia. By 1864 he was also a Lieutenant-Colonel in the Royal Gloucestershire Hussars, with whom he had a very positive relationship. He may now be regarded as "an unsuccessful Dairy Shorthorn breeder" but he did much to keep the regimental standards up during the 1870s when bad harvests understandably affected the attendance of farmers with the yeomanry. Fitzhardinge became the commanding officer of the Royal Gloucestershire Hussars in 1884. In 1886 Lord Wolseley commented in an official letter: "The efficiency of this fine Regiment reflects very great credit on Colonel Lord Fitzhardinge, and his Officers and Non-commissioned Officers".

In 1887 Fitzhardinge had to retire as commanding officer, having reached the age of sixty, and he was presented with an ornamental silver centrepiece. Lady Fitzhardinge received the previously mentioned portrait of the baron. Lord Fitzhardinge continued to take an interest in the Royal Gloucestershire Hussars but the Berkeley Squadron, having already been reduced to a troop, was amalgamated with the Gloucester Troop to form a new 1<sup>st</sup> Squadron in 1888. Baron Fitzhardinge died in 1896, marking the end of his family's involvement with the Royal Gloucestershire Hussars.

#### References:

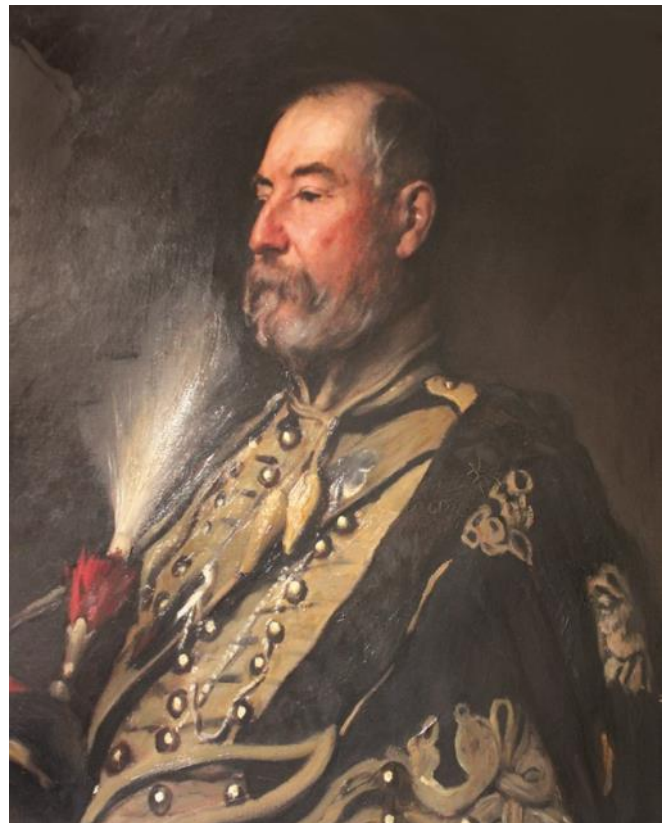
B Falk, *The Berkeleys of Berkeley Square* (Hutchinson & Co; London, 1944), p216

T Scotland, *Lennox & Freda* (Michael Russell; Norwich, 2010), p452.

W Wyndham Quin, *The Yeomanry Cavalry of Gloucestershire and Monmouth* (Westley's Library; Cheltenham, 1898), p.163

Scotland, p.33

Wyndham Quin, p.229



**Francis William Fitzhardinge Berkeley,  
2nd Baron Fitzhardinge (1826-1896)**

# **ATTENTION!**

## **SUBSCRIPTIONS**

Please note that following the decision taken at the S.G.M. in March, subscriptions are now:

Adult £35	Joint Adult (two at the same address) £65
Adult Concessions (65 & over) £30	Joint Concessions £55
Family (2 adults & 2 children) £110	Child £20

*Note: children are aged 3 - 16 inclusive*

If paying by Standing Order, please ensure that the correct amount is stated, with your S/O dated for 14th February, and directed to:

Friends of Berkeley Castle account (*not* BCCT)

Sort Code: 55-61-38

Account number 76584054

Membership cannot be renewed unless the correct fee is paid.

When paying for any FoBC subscription or event online, please send the administrators an email to say exactly what the payment is for. It can be hard to disentangle a mix of events and/or subscription payments without such information.

Many thanks,

Althea Hamlyn and Reg Clarke (volunteer Administrative Team)

[friends@berkeley-castle.com](mailto:friends@berkeley-castle.com)

## **WANTED !**

We need another volunteer for the Administrative Team.

For family reasons, Reg Clarke, who is part of the voluntary Admin Team, is retiring in December. We need a volunteer to replace him. Althea and Reg visit the Castle once a week and process any membership and ticket applications that have arrived during the past week, usually on a Thursday morning. If there is a member who would be able and willing to replace Reg, we would be delighted to hear from you. Please email the Friends at [friends@berkeley-castle.com](mailto:friends@berkeley-castle.com). Reg has said that he will be happy to show the new Admin Team member how the system works.

Reg has managed our database for many years and we are most grateful for all that he has done to ensure the smooth running of the membership and ticketing.

Thank you, Reg. We shall miss you!



# Jacob Knyff and the Berkeley Connection

*by Josh Nash, Castle Custodian*

Jacob Knyff was born in Harlem in December 1639. His father, Wouter, was a successful artist and Jacob followed into the family trade. There is very little information regarding Jacob's early life but we know that by 1671 he was working as an artist in Paris. There are two of Jacob's paintings here at Berkeley Castle from his period in France. The first is an extensive view of the Palace of Fontainebleau with horsemen and travelers in the foreground (detail below).



The second is a view of the River Seine looking East with the Louvre Palace on the left (pictured below); the Seine wraps around the Île de la Cité in the centre of the painting and the Collège Mazarin is on the right hand river bank. It is worth noting that this picture would have been painted from the Pont Rouge, which was swept away by an ice flow in 1684.



Both French pictures are signed by Knyff but only the painting of the Seine is dated 1673, which means that it would have been painted just before his departure for England. We know this as we have another of his works from the same year of The Durdans, Epsom (pictured below), which was the main residence of George Berkeley, who later became the first Earl of Berkeley.



Jacob Knyff was almost certainly enticed to England by King Charles II's 1672 invitation to "the subjects of the United Provinces of the Low-Countreys [*sic*], to transport themselves with their estates, and to settle in this His Majesties kingdom of England". Knyff probably brought his recent French paintings to try and obtain wealthy English clients in London. But it is rather nice to think that George Berkeley (or possibly his wife, Elizabeth) was strolling across the Pont Rouge towards The Louvre and stumbled across Knyff and commissioned him to paint The Durdans on the spot. There is a small chance this second scenario happened but more work is needed to determine the Berkeleys' whereabouts in the early 1670s.

The Durdans was not the only Berkeley home that Knyff painted. The British Museum holds two drawings of Berkeley Castle by Knyff, 'A view from the East' (below)





and 'A View from the South' (below), which were presumably produced as preparatory sketches for oil paintings.



'A View from the South' appears to have been drawn from within the present Berkeley Castle Meadow from ground level but 'A View from the East' was almost certainly sketched with the aid of a telescope from somewhere near the present Stinchcombe Hill Golf Club viewpoint. The setting of the Vale of Berkeley and the Severn in the background is far easier to convey from the Stinchcombe angle and this is why it is probable 'The View from the South' wasn't worked up as a finished painting.

Nevertheless, both drawings are incredibly useful and show the Castle in a state of disrepair after the Civil War slighting of 1646 but before the 2<sup>nd</sup> Earl of Berkeley's renovation works of the early 1700s. Tantalisingly, the 'Breach in the Keep' isn't visible in either drawing but both pictures depict the tattered edges of walls that were half-demolished in 1646 and the much higher Thorpe's Tower before it was lowered in 1702 during the 2<sup>nd</sup> Earl's works. 'The View from the East' (overleaf, top) shows an intriguing feature on the north east external wall of the Keep, what appears to be the remains of a joint where a large, pitched roof abutted up against the Keep wall opposite where the present day Visitor Toilets are. In John Smyth (1567-1640), author of 'Lives of the Berkeleys, Lords of the Honour, Castle and Manor of Berkeley from 1066 to 1618' tells us that there was a "great kitchen, (great indeed,) standing without but adjoining the Keep" on its north eastern elevation. Smyth states that this Great Kitchen was built around the time that King Henry VII was bequeathed the Castle from William de Berkeley, 1<sup>st</sup> Marquess of Berkeley, upon his death in 1492 and it is this building that utilises material from the hall at Wotton House.

In the Picture Gallery at Berkeley hangs another, much smaller version of the Knyff painting (overleaf). Not signed or dated, this may be a copy by another artist. Several notable additions in the smaller painting are: New Park Lodge, which pokes above the trees on the far left, the roof of Whitcliff Park Lodge to the right of New Park, and the town of Lydney on the far side of the Severn (see the final page). All three sites are visible from the Stinchcombe viewpoint and therefore, arguably closer to what Knyff saw when he drew the British Museum sketch. It may be that this smaller picture was Knyff's first attempt and the larger one was painted on request.





These pictures of Berkeley Castle, with their long distance view from the elevated position that Stinchcombe allows, are an interesting stepping stone to the birds-eye views popularised by Jacob's brother, Leonard Knyff, and their countryman Johannes Kip. It is hard to imagine that Leonard and Kip were not inspired by Jacob's views of Berkeley.







Above: A present-day view of Berkeley Castle from Stinchcombe Hill, through a telescope.

Below: Jacob Knyff's signature - on the gates of The Durdans.





*An enlargement of part of the painting of the front page.*

*A: New Park Lodge B: Whitcliff Park Lodge (see Josh's article on the preceding pages).*

*The Little Avon river and the bridge near the present Stables and Hunt Kennels can be seen bottom right.*

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The Editor (e-mail address below) will be pleased to hear from any members who have relevant pictures or articles to contribute to The Berkeley Buttreass.

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### **Friends of Berkeley Castle**

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E: [friends@berkeley-castle.com](mailto:friends@berkeley-castle.com) (please do not contact the Berkeley Estate Office staff)

[www.berkeley-castle.com/friends-of-berkeley-castle](http://www.berkeley-castle.com/friends-of-berkeley-castle)

### **Current FoBC Officers**

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